

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/777,228

Q79063

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

**Please add the new sheet of drawings including new Fig. 6.**

Attachment: One (1) New Sheet

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 10-20 have been newly added herewith.

**Drawing Objections**

The Examiner objects to the drawings as not illustrating every feature in the claims.

First, the Examiner asserts that the drawings do not include a reference numeral for “segments (11).” Applicant has amended the specification and Fig. 1 to include reference numeral “11.” Therefore, the rejection with regards to reference numeral “11” is believed to be overcome.

Additionally, the Examiner asserts that the feature of “each segment of the guide rail and the flanges of the semi-cylindrical halves have a progressively variable section” recited in claim 1 is not illustrated. Claim 1 recites that either segments of the guide rail or segments of the flanges have a progressively variable section. Therefore, rather than being constant or homogenous, the section changes. Fig. 1 currently illustrates the guide rail 9 with progressively variable sections, because the section of the guide rail segments are tapered. Therefore, the drawings do illustrate this feature of claim 1 and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Finally, Applicant has added new Fig. 6, which illustrates flanges 6’ which have a section that varies. The new figure is clearly supported by the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

**Claim Objections**

The Examiner objects to claims 1-9 for various informalities. Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the objections.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

First, the Examiner states that the use of the phrase “the flanges (6) projected transversally inwards or outwards” in claim 1, lines 8-9 is vague and indefinite. Initially, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner. The phrase cited by the Examiner clearly recites that the flanges may be either inwards or outwards. There is nothing improper about such a recitation. Nonetheless, Applicant has stylistically amended the claim to further clarify that the flanges may be inwards or outwards in order to help further prosecution.

The Examiner also asserts that the phrase “guide rail and/or the flanges” is indefinite and vague. Applicants also disagree with the Examiner that this phrase is indefinite. It is clear that the feature may be on either the guide rail, the flanges or both. Again, there is nothing improper about such a recitation. Nonetheless, Applicant has also stylistically amended this phrase to further clarify its meaning in order to help further prosecution.

The Examiner asserts that the phrase “a progressively variable section” in claim 1, line 15 is indefinite and vague. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clearly set forth that a section of a segment of the guide rail or the flange varies. That is, rather than being constant or homogenous, the section changes. For example, one non-limiting embodiment of the specification teaches an annular groove 7 which has an open section so that the flanges 6 fit together with the sections of the annular groove (*see* page 4, line 30 to page 5, line 4). As shown in Fig. 2, the section of the

segments 11 of the guide rail 9 is tapered, and thus it varies (*see* page 5, lines 5-7). In the non-limiting embodiment, because the section of the guide rail 9 segments decrease, pressure between the guide rail 9 sections and the flanges 6 increases to secure the flange 6 in the guide rail 9.

Claim 1 clearly recites a section that varies. As clearly shown with reference to the non-limiting embodiment, there is clear support for having sections that are not constant, but instead vary. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is clear and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Finally, the Examiner asserts that the phrases “the rims,” “the segments,” “the walls” and “the interior diameter” lack antecedent bases. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the rejection with respect to these phrases.

### **New Claims**

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant is adding new claims 10-20. Claim 10 is allowable at least because it sets forth a central body with flanges and discs with grooves such that at least the annular grooves or the flanges have a variable cross-sectional area. Claims 11-20 depend from claim 10 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

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